

REMARKS

The Examiner thanks with due consideration given the application. The specification has been amended to insert headings and to improve the language.

Acknowledgement of the allowability of claims 25, 26 and 31-37 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 21-23 and 26-37 are pending in the application. Claim 24 and allowable claim 25 have been cancelled and their subject matter has been incorporated into claim 21. Allowable claims 31 and 33 have been amended to stand as independent claims. The other claims have been amended to improve their language in a non-narrowing fashion.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 21-37 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The comments in the Official Action have been considered, and the claims have been amended to be clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is believed to be overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 21-24 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over AUSMAN et al. (U.S. Patent 6,364,282) in view of MAYER (U.S. Patent 4,258,749). Claims 21-24 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over HAHN et al. (U.S. Patent 5,924,674). Claim 21-24 and 27-30 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over HAHN et al. in view of MAYER. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Allowable claim 25 has been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into independent claim 21, thus rendering independent claim 21 instantly patentable over the applied art references. Allowable claims 31 and 33 have also been amended to stand as independent claims. The claims depending upon claims 21, 31 or 33 are instantly allowable over the applied art references for at least this reason.

These rejections are believed to be overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statements filed April 7, 2006 and July 7, 2006 and for making initialed PTO-1449 forms of record in the application.

Prior art cited but not usable are believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejections we believe are overcome, obviated or rendered moot and no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a notice of allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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